



COMMANDING OFFICER 3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFETY

The Marines and sailors of America's Battalion are its most valuable resource. That resource cannot be squandered away on mishaps and accidents that could have been prevented through careful planning, risk mitigation and good old fashioned leadership. The loss of even one Marine or sailor is unacceptable and will have second and third order effects on the Battalion and its combat effectiveness.

Every member of America's Battalion is a safety officer. If you see an unsafe act, it is your responsibility to intervene and take immediate corrective action. While both in garrison and in the field, we must remain vigilant against the unsafe conditions or acts that could potentially injure, maim, or kill our Marines and sailors. Operational Risk Management (ORM) is more than a "buzz phrase". It is a mindset. That mindset must be applied to everything that we do, from mission planning in Afghanistan, to liberty in Downtown Waikiki. ORM while in combat may take the form of detailed planning, followed by careful rehearsals and pre-combat checks and inspections. Likewise, when preparing for liberty, that ORM begins with a thoughtful liberty brief and concludes with our Marines and sailors executing a pre-planned Course of Action (COA) for all off-duty activities.

The safety programs implemented by 3d Battalion, 3d Marines will aggressively pursue the reduction of incidents both on and off duty through education, detailed planning, supervision and simply holding individuals accountable for their action or inaction.

Safety is a leadership issue, full stop. Leaders at all levels, from the Battalion Commander to the Non-Commissioned Officer, will reinforce the importance of safety to the men in their charge and ensure that it is incorporated into the unit's culture. As part of our overall mission, we are charged with the responsibility of force protection, force preservation, and operational readiness that are reflected in our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. We have the distinct honor of leading our Corps' most valuable asset, which requires us to have the personal fortitude to do what is right because it is the right thing to do. Ensuring, and more importantly enforcing, the safety of our Marines and sailors is the right thing to do.

Safety must be an integral part of everything we do, both on and off-duty. Accepting anything less will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of every leader to provide those under their charge with the proper tools to protect themselves, as well as those they serve along side with. Implementing the risk management process into all activities is essential to ensuring personal well-being and mission success.

The 3d Battalion, 3d Marines Safety Officer is First Lieutenant Joseph Swearingen. His office is in the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines Motor Transportation Building and he can be reached by telephone at (808) 257-1984. Semper Fidelis.

M. J. PALMA